

Special City Council Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, September 30, 2014  
City Hall Auditorium  
6:30 pm

1. Call to Order @ 6:30 p.m. Councilor Kelcourse was acting President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mary Louise Bartley
3. Roll Call – In attendance was Councilor Bartley, Councilor Ferguson, Councilor Kelcourse, Councilor McClure, Councilor Moavenzadeh and Councilor Sickorez. Councilor Lavoie arrived at 6:40 p.m. Councilors Sherwood and McMilleon were absent.
4. Act on minutes – None at this time.
5. Mayoral Appointments – None at this time.
6. Licenses & Permits –

**2014-119** Pole Hearing, National Grid – Petition #17670622, County Rd – requesting permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across County Rd.

Councilor Kelcourse opened the public hearing.

Mr. John Butler of National Grid was present to present the petition to locate a new pole on County Rd. to take the place of a pole that is being eliminated at the request of the City as part of the Park Project to facilitate the cleanup and relocate their facilities outside the cleanup area. The actual location was worked out with the City Engineer so that it doesn't interfere with the new plans for the reconstruction of the road and it is a permanent move.

Councilor Kelcourse closed the public hearing.

**Councilor McClure moved to approve 2014-119 as presented.  
Councilor Sickorez seconded and it was voted Unanimous.**

**2014-120** Pole Hearing, Verizon – Petition #420, County Rd. –requesting permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used by Verizon and National Grid along and across the public way or ways - County Rd.

Councilor Kelcourse opened the public hearing.

Mr. Joseph Gleason of Verizon spoke on the petition before the council to request to relocate an existing pole designated at #202/5 which is presently located on the easterly side of the Amesbury Riverwalk continued to the bridge over the Powow River. The request is to move that pole approximately 17 feet westerly to the other side of the Riverwalk to accommodate the bridge work and the road work that is ongoing and is being overseen by MASSDOT.

Councilor Kelcourse closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure moved to approve 2014-120 as presented by Verizon. Councilor Sickorez seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

7. Correspondence

- a. President/Vice President Communications - None at this time.
- b. Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions – None at this time.

8. Public Comment

Jim Thivierge spoke regarding an article in the September 26, 2014 Newburyport News concerning surging water bills in Amesbury. He hopes the council will look at this in depth. He stated that in the budget hearings there was nothing mentioned about this and nothing in the minutes of that meeting. He also commented that as it is stated in the Charter, within 8 weeks following the start of the each fiscal year, the Mayor has not yet submitted to the Council or made available to the public the Annual Report.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

Councilor Lavoie stated that the 2011 Charter Changes moved that from 8 weeks to 12 weeks which makes that date now September 30 which is today.

Councilor Ferguson asked if the Mayor's Aide could be asked to give an update on the Annual Report.

Mr. Kenney stated that they did receive the correspondence from Mr. Thivierge inquiring about the Annual Report. They were notified of the Charter requirement a few months into their term and found that last year's report was never published. He stated they are still working on this year's

report and are aware of the requests from the residents. He stated that if the Council had any input he is sure the Mayor would be happy to consider it.

Councilor Ferguson thanked him for his work on this and stated that last year's report was published and it was online. As far as the water bill, she stated that she understood that because of the debt service that had been added and because of the new water treatment plant that we were going to have a period of gradually increasing on the water bills. She stated that she thought the article in the paper explained it very well and this doesn't come as a surprise to her. She stated that the Water Department and Mr. Basque was working on this so that the water bills would increase gradually so that it would be a huge jump in one year. The water hearing will be coming up and it will be discussed in depth.

10. Public Hearings - None at this time.

11. First Readings – None at this time.

12. Adjourn- Councilor McClure moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., Councilor Ferguson seconded and it was Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dunning

Assistant City Clerk